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OPERATIONS OF THE MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, 1839.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

A report showing the operations of the Mint during the year 1839.

FEBRUARY 12, 1840.

Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

I transmit, herewith, to the House of Representatives, a report from the director of the mint, showing the operations of that institution for the year 1839.

M. VAN BUREN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *February* 1, 1840.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,
Philadelphia, January 30, 1840.

SIR: In compliance with the law, which requires that "in the month of January of every year the director shall make report to the President of the United States of the operations of the mint and its branches for the year preceding," I have the honor to submit to you the following statements:

The coinage executed at this mint, in 1839, amounted to $3,021,170 11, comprising $1,040,747 50 in gold, $1,949,136 in silver, and $31,286 61 in copper, and composed of 9,260,345 pieces. (Statement A.)

The deposites of gold within the year amounted to $1,042,500, of which $138,500 was derived from the mines of the United States. (Statements B and C.)

The deposites of silver amounted to $1,851,500, and consisted principally of Mexican dollars. (Statement E.)

At the close of the year, the public funds in our vaults, under the laws authorizing deposites with the mint for the purchase of metals for coinage, and for securing prompt payments to depositors, amounted to $516,697 04 in gold and silver. The amount withdrawn during the year, on Treasury drafts, was $648,730 58, and the amount added $33,000.

The coinage at the New Orleans branch mint, up to the 17th of August, when operations were suspended, amounted to $227,160 in silver, composed of 2,401,600 pieces of coin. (Statement D.)

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The deposites for coinage during the same period amounted to $85,159 in gold, and $173,901 in silver. (Statement F.)

I have to regret that, after keeping back this annual report to the last day allowed by the law, in the expectation of obtaining from the New Orleans mint the information necessary to enable me to include its operations to the close of the year, this information has not been received; and that my report, so far as it regards this branch, is, therefore, necessarily incomplete. I may state, however, that the amount of deposites and coinage thus left unreported must be inconsiderable.

The efficiency of this branch of the mint has been greatly reduced during the year by causes which are deeply to be deplored. First, disagreements arose among the officers, which ended in mutual denunciations, and rendered an investigation necessary as to the characters of those implicated and the state of the institution generally. The task was committed to the United States district attorney at New Orleans, and was executed with ability and impartiality. The result showed that, although there was no reason for suspecting the integrity of any of the officers, the condition of things at the mint was such as to require painful measures of reform, which the Government did not hesitate to apply. Scarcely was this investigation ended, before the fatal epidemic, to which New Orleans is subject, made its appearance at the mint, and rendered an entire suspension of its operations absolutely necessary. The melter and refiner, and the coiner, both officers of great merit, fell at their posts, victims to the disease; and four of the workmen also lost their lives, while scarcely one escaped without an attack.

Under these circumstances, it cannot be matter of surprise that so little has yet been accomplished at the New Orleans mint. The prospects for the future, however, are more cheering. The institution has now an able corps of officers, all of whom are acclimated, as are also nearly all the workmen. There is reason, therefore, to believe that the operations of the mint may go on without further interruption, and that the just expectations of the public with regard to it may be no longer disappointed.

The branch mint at Charlotte received, during the year, deposites of gold to the value of $126,836. The amount of its coinage was $162,767 50, composed of 23,467 half-eagles, and 18,173 quarter-eagles. (Statements D and F.)

The branch mint at Dahlonega received, during the year, deposites of gold to the value of $113,035; and its coinage amounted to $128,880, composed of 18,939 half-eagles, and 13,674 quarter-eagles. (Statements D and F.)

These two mints, established for the exclusive coinage of gold, are in a very satisfactory condition, and are fully able to execute much more work than has yet been required of them.

In my last annual report I took the liberty of calling your attention to the fact that the law of June 28, 1834, gave too high a valuation to foreign gold coins, so as to lead the community into error with regard to them, and to prevent, in a great measure, their recoinage. As the capacity of the mint and its branches is now abundantly sufficient for all the gold coinage necessary for the metallic circulation of the country, the reasons which led to the act making foreign gold coins a legal tender are presumed to be removed; and as, moreover, the conditions of this tender are certainly erroneous, I would again express my hope that the attention of

Congress may be directed to the subject, and would respectfully recommend that the act in question be repealed.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your faithful servant,

R. M. PATTERSON,
Director of the Mint.

To the PRESIDENT *of the United States.*

A.

Statement of the coinage at the Mint of the United States, Philadelphia, in the year 1839.

Denominations.	Pieces.	Whole number of pieces.	Value.	Whole value.
Gold.			Dollars.	Dollars.
Eagles	38,248	–	382,480 00	
Half-eagles	118,143	–	590,715 00	
Quarter-eagles	27,021	–	67,552 50	
		183,412		1,040,747 50
Silver.				
Dollars	300	–	300 00	
Half-dollars	3,334,561	–	1,667,280 50	
Quarter-dollars	491,146	–	122,786 50	
Dimes	1,053,115	–	105,311 50	
Half-dimes	1,069,150	–	53,457 50	
		5,948,272		1,949,136 00
Copper.				
Cents	-	3,128,661	-	31,286 61
		9,260,345		3,021,170 11

B.

Statement of deposites of gold, for coinage, at the Mint of the United States, Philadelphia, in the year 1839.

The deposites of gold, for coinage, amounted to		$1,042,500
Of which, was received from the United States, viz:		
Virginia	$57,600	
North Carolina	53,500	
South Carolina	6,300	
Georgia	20,300	
Alabama	500	
Tennessee	300	
	$138,500	
Coins of the United States, old standard	7,000	
Foreign bullion	167,000	
Foreign coins	730,000	
		$1,042,500

C.

Statement of the annual amounts of deposites of gold for coinage at the Mint of the United States and its branches, from the mines of the United States.

Deposited at the United States Mint, Philadelphia.								Deposited at the branch Mints.				Mint and branches.
Periods.	Virginia.	North Carolina.	South Carolina.	Georgia.	Tennessee.	Various sources.	Total at U. S. Mint.	Branch at Charlotte, N. Carolina.	Branch at Dahlonega, Georgia.	Branch at New Orleans, Louisiana.	Total at branch Mints.	Total deposites of U. S. gold.
1824	–	$5,000	–	–	–	–	$5,000	–	–	–	–	$5,000
1825	–	17,000	–	–	–	–	17,000	–	–	–	–	17,000
1826	–	20,000	–	–	–	–	20,000	–	–	–	–	20,000
1827	–	21,000	–	–	–	–	21,000	–	–	–	–	21,000
1828	–	46,000	–	–	–	–	46,000	–	–	–	–	46,000
1829	$2,500	134,000	$3,500	–	–	–	140,000	–	–	–	–	140,000
1830	24,000	201,000	26,000	$212,000	–	–	466,000	–	–	–	–	466,000
1831	26,000	291,000	22,000	176,000	$1,000	$1,000	520,000	–	–	–	–	520,000
1832	31,000	458,000	45,000	140,000	1,000	–	678,000	–	–	–	–	678,000
1833	104,000	475,000	66,000	216,000	7,000	–	868,000	–	–	–	–	868,000
1834	62,000	380,000	38,000	415,000	3,000	–	898,000	–	–	–	–	898,000
1835	60,400	263,500	42,400	319,900	100	12,200	698,500	–	–	–	–	698,500
1836	62,000	148,100	55,200	201,400	300	–	467,000	–	–	–	–	467,000
1837	52,100	116,900	29,400	83,600	–	–	282,000	–	–	–	–	282,000
1838	55,000	66,000	13,000	36,000	1,500	200	171,700	$127,000	$135,700	$700	$263,400	435,100
1839	57,600	53,500	6,300	20,300	300	500	138,500	126,836	113,035	6,869	246,740	385,240
	539,600	2,702,000	346,800	1,820,200	14,200	13,900	5,436,700	253,836	248,735	7,569	510,140	5,946,840

D.

Statement of the amount of coinage at the branch Mints in the year 1839.

Mints.	Gold.				Silver.					Total.	
	Half-eagles.	Quarter-eagles.	Number of pieces.	Value.	Half-dollars.	Dimes.	Half-dimes.	Number of pieces.	Value.	Whole number of pieces.	Whole value.
Charlotte -	23,467	18,173	41,640	$162,767 50	–	–	–	–	–	41,640	$163,767 50
Dahlonega -	18,939	13,674	32,613	128,880 00	–	–	–	–	–	32,613	128,880 00
New Orleans -	–	–	–	–	100,000	1,241,600	1,060,000	2,401,600	$227,160	2,401,600	227,160 00
	42,406	31,847	74,253	291,647 50	100,000	1,241,600	1,060,000	2,401,600	227,160	2,475,853	518,807 50

E.

Statement of deposites of silver, for coinage, at the Mint of the United States, Philadelphia, in the year 1839.

The deposites of silver, for coinage, amount to - -		$1,851,500
Of which, there was in—		
Mexican dollars - - -	$1,406,000	
Five-franc pieces of France - -	180,000	
Other coins - - - -	100,000	
Bullion and plate - - -	164,000	
Parted from gold - - -	1,500	
		1,851,500

F.

Statement of deposites, for coinage, at the Branch Mints, in the year 1839.

	United States bullion.	Foreign bullion.	Foreign coins.	Total.
Gold.				
Charlotte branch mint -	$126,836	-	-	$126,836
Dahlonega branch mint -	113,035	-	-	113,035
New Orleans branch mint -	6,869	$58,158	$20,132	85,159
	246,740	58,158	20,132	325,030
Silver.				
New Orleans branch mint - -		70,973	102,928	173,901
Whole amount deposited at the branches - - -				498,931

RECAPITULATION.

Deposited at the Charlotte branch mint - - -	$126,836
Deposited at the Dahlonega branch mint - - -	113,035
Deposited at the New Orleans branch mint - - -	259,060
	498,931

Recapitulation of deposites and coinage at the Mint of the United States and its branches, in the year 1839.

Mints.	Deposites.					Coinage.							
	Gold.			Silver.	Total.	Gold.		Silver.		Copper.		Total.	
	U. States gold.	Foreign gold.	Total of gold.			Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.
Philadelphia	$138,500	$901,000	$1,042,500	$1,851,500	$2,894,000	183,412	$1,040,747 50	5,948,272	$1,949,136	3,128,661	$31,286 61	9,260,345	$3,021,170 11
Charlotte	126,836	–	126,836	–	126,836	41,640	162,767 50	–	–	–	–	41,640	162,767 50
Dahlonega	113,035	–	113,035	–	113,035	32,613	128,880 00	–	–	–	–	32,613	128,880 00
New Orleans	6,869	78,290	85,159	173,901	259,060	–	–	2,401,600	227,160	–	–	2,401,600	227,160 00
	385,240	982,290	1,367,530	2,025,401	3,392,931	257,665	1,332,395 00	8,349,872	2,176,296	3,128,661	31,286 61	11,736,198	3,539,977 61

H.

Tabular statement of the amount of coinage at the Mint of the United of its operations until the 31st

Periods.	Eagles.	Half-eagles.	Quarter-eagles.	Dollars.	Half-dollars.	Quarter-dollars.	Dimes.	Half-dimes.
	Pieces.	*Pieces.*	*Pieces.*	*Pieces.*	*Pieces.*	*Pieces.*	*Pieces.*	*Pieces.*
1793								
1794	2,795	8,707	–	204,791	323,144	–	–	86,416
1795								
1796	6,934	6,196	963	72,920	3,918	5,894	22,135	10,230
1797	8,323	3,609	859	7,776	–	253	25,261	44,527
1798	7,974	24,867	614	327,536	–	–	27,550	–
1799	37,483	7,451	480	423,515	–	–	–	–
1800	25,965	11,622	–	220,920	–	–	21,760	24,000
1801	29,254	26,006	–	54,454	30,289	–	34,640	33,910
1802	15,090	53,176	2,612	41,650	29,890	–	10,975	13,010
1803	8,979	33,506	423	66,064	31,715	–	33,040	37,850
1804	9,795	30,475	3,327	19,570	156,519	6,738	8,265	–
1805	–	33,183	1,781	321	211,722	121,394	120,780	15,600
1806	–	64,093	1,616	–	839,576	206,124	–	–
1807	–	84,093	6,812	–	1,051,576	220,643	165,000	–
1808	–	55,578	2,710	–	1,368,600	–	–	–
1809	–	33,875	–	–	1,405,810	–	44,710	–
1810	–	100,287	–	–	1,276,276	–	6,355	–
1811	–	99,581	–	–	1,203,644	–	65,180	–
1812	–	58,087	–	–	1,628,059	–	–	–
1813	–	95,428	–	–	1,241,903	–	–	–
1814	–	15,454	–	–	1,039,075	–	421,500	–
1815	–	635	–	–	–	69,232	–	–
1816	–	–	–	–	47,150	20,003	–	–
1817	–	–	–	–	1,215,567	–	–	–
1818	–	48,588	–	–	1,960,322	361,174	–	–
1819	–	51,723	–	–	2,208,000	144,000	–	–
1820	–	263,806	–	–	751,122	127,444	942,587	–
1821	–	34,641	6,448	–	1,305,797	216,851	1,186,512	–
1822	–	17,796	–	–	1,559,573	64,080	100,000	–
1823	–	14,485	–	–	1,694,200	17,800	440,000	–
1824	–	17,340	2,600	–	3,504,954	–	–	–
1825	–	29,060	4,434	–	2,943,166	168,000	510,000	–
1826	–	18,069	760	–	4,004,180	–	–	–
1827	–	24,913	2,800	–	5,493,400	4,000	1,215,000	–
1828	–	28,029	–	–	3,075,200	102,000	125,000	–
1829	–	57,442	3,403	–	3,712,156	–	770,000	1,230,000
1830	–	126,351	4,540	–	4,764,800	–	510,000	1,240,000
1831	–	140,594	4,520	–	5,873,660	398,000	771,350	1,242,700
1832	–	157,487	4,400	–	4,797,000	320,000	522,500	965,000
1833	–	193,630	4,160	–	5,206,000	156,000	485,000	1,370,000
1834	–	732,169	117,370	–	6,412,004	286,000	635,000	1,480,000
1835	–	371,534	131,402	–	5,352,006	1,952,000	1,410,000	2,760,000
1836	–	553,147	517,986	1,000	6,546,200	472,000	1,190,000	1,900,000
1837	–	207,121	45,080	–	3,629,820	252,400	1,042,000	2,276,000
1838	7,200	286,588	47,030	–	3,546,000	832,000	1,992,500	2,255,000
1839	38,248	118,143	27,021	300	3,331,561	491,146	1,053,115	1,069,150
	178,040	4,338,565	976,151	1,410,817	94,778,554	7,915,175	15,907,715	18,053,393

H.

States, in the several denominations of coin, from the commencement of of December, 1839, inclusive.

Cents.	Half-cents.	Pieces of gold.	Value of gold.	Pieces of silver.	Value of silver.	Pieces of copper.	Value of copper.
Pieces.	*Pieces.*		*Dolls. cts.*		*Dolls. cts.*		*Dolls. cts.*
1,066,033	142,534	11,502	71,485 00	614,351	370,683 80	1,208,567	11,373 00
974,700	115,480	14,093	102,727 50	115,097	79,077 50	1,090,180	10,324 40
897,510	107,048	12,791	103,422 50	77,816	12,591 45	1,004,558	9,510 34
979,700	–	33,455	205,610 00	355,086	330,291 00	979,700	9,797 00
904,585	12,167	25,411	213,285 00	423,515	425,515 00	916,752	9,107 68
2,822,175	211,530	37,587	317,760 00	266,689	221,296 00	3,033,705	29,279 40
1,362,837	–	55,260	422,570 00	153,293	74,758 00	1,362,837	13,628 37
3,435,100	14,366	70,878	423,310 00	95,525	58,343 00	3,449,466	34,422 83
2,471,353	97,900	42,908	258,377 50	168,669	87,118 00	2,569,253	25,203 03
756,838	1,055,312	43,597	258,642 50	191,092	100,340 50	1,812,150	12,844 94
941,116	814,464	34,961	170,367 50	469,817	149,388 50	1,755,580	13,483 48
348,000	356,000	65,709	324,505 00	1,015,700	471,319 00	704,000	5,260 00
727,221	476,000	90,905	437,495 00	1,437,219	597,448 75	1,203,221	9,652 21
1,109,000	400,000	58,288	284,665 00	1,368,600	684,300 00	1,509,000	13,090 00
222,867	1,154,572	33,875	169,375 00	1,450,520	707,376 00	1,377,439	8,001 53
1,458,500	215,000	100,287	501,435 00	1,282,631	638,773 50	1,673,500	15,660 00
218,025	63,110	99,581	497,905 00	1,268,821	608,340 00	281,165	2,495 95
1,075,500	–	58,087	290,435 00	1,628,059	814,029 50	1,075,500	10,755 00
418,000	–	95,428	477,140 00	1,241,903	620,951 50	418,000	4,180 00
357,830	–	15,454	77,270 00	1,460,575	561,687 50	357,830	3,578 30
–	–	635	3,175 00	69,232	17,308 00		
2,820,982	–	–	–	67,153	28,575 75	2,820,982	28,209 82
3,948,400	–	–	–	1,215,567	607,783 50	3,948,400	39,484 00
3,167,000	–	48,588	242,940 00	2,321,496	1,070,454 50	3,167,000	31,670 00
2,671,000	–	51,723	258,615 00	2,352,000	1,140,000 00	2,671,000	26,710 00
4,407,550	–	263,806	1,319,030 00	1,821,153	501,680 70	4,407,550	44,075 50
389,000	–	41,089	189,325 00	2,709,160	825,762 45	389,000	3,890 00
2,072,339	–	17,796	88,980 00	1,723,653	805,806 50	2,072,339	20,723 39
–	–	14,485	72,425 00	2,152,000	895,550 00		
1,262,000	–	19,940	93,200 00	3,501,954	1,752,477 00	1,262,000	12,620 00
1,461,100	63,000	33,494	156,385 00	3,621,166	1,564,583 00	1,524,100	14,926 00
1,517,425	231,000	18,829	92,245 00	4,004,180	2,002,090 00	1,751,425	16,344 25
2,357,732	–	27,713	131,565 00	6,712,400	2,869,200 00	2,357,732	23,577 32
2,260,624	606,000	28,029	140,145 00	3,302,200	1,575,600 00	2,866,624	25,636 24
1,414,500	487,000	60,845	295,717 50	5,712,156	1,991,578 00	1,991,500	16,580 00
1,711,500	–	130,891	643,105 00	6,514,800	2,495,400 00	1,711,500	17,115 00
3,359,260	2,200	145,114	714,270 00	8,285,710	3,175,600 00	3,361,460	33,603 60
2,362,000	–	161,887	798,435 00	6,614,500	2,579,000 00	2,362,000	23,620 00
2,730,030	154,600	197,790	978,550 00	7,217,000	2,759,000 00	2,893,000	28,160 00
1,855,100	120,000	819,539	3,951,270 00	8,813,001	3,415,002 00	1,975,100	19,151 00
3,878,400	141,000	502,936	2,186,175 00	11,474,006	3,443,003 00	4,019,400	39,489 00
2,111,000	398,000	1,101,133	4,135,700 00	10,109,200	3,666,100 00	2,509,000	23,100 00
5,558,300	–	252,201	1,148,305 00	7,200,220	2,096,010 00	5,558,300	55,583 00
6,370,200	–	340,818	1,622,515 00	8,625,500	2,293,000 00	6,370,200	63,702 00
3,128,661	–	183,412	1,040,747 50	5,948,272	1,949,136 00	3,128,661	31,286 61
85,369,963	7,440,713	5,492,756	25,913,602 50	137,195,654	53,077,328 90	92,810,676	890,904 19

RECAPITULATION.

Periods.	Whole coinage, in pieces.	Whole coinage, in value.	Periods.	Whole coinage, in pieces.	Whole coinage, in value.
1793 }			1818	5,537,084	$1,345,064 50
1794 }	1,834,420	$453,541 80	1819	5,074,723	1,425,325 00
1795 }			1820	6,492,509	1,864,786 20
1796	1,219,370	192,129 40	1821	3,139,249	1,018,977 45
1797	1,095,165	125,524 29	1822	3,813,788	915,509 89
1798	1,368,241	545,698 00	1823	2,166,485	967,975 00
1799	1,365,681	645,907 68	1824	4,786,894	1,858,297 00
1800	3,337,972	571,335 40	1825	5,178,760	1,735,894 00
1801	1,571,390	510,956 37	1826	5,774,434	2,110,679 25
1802	3,615,869	516,075 83	1827	9,097,845	3,024,342 32
1803	2,780,830	370,698 53	1828	6,196,853	1,741,381 24
1804	2,046,839	371,827 94	1829	7,674,501	2,306,875 50
1805	2,260,361	333,239 48	1830	8,357,191	3,155,620 00
1806	1,815,409	801,084 00	1831	11,792,284	3,923,473 60
1807	2,731,345	1,044,595 96	1832	9,128,387	3,401,055 00
1808	2,935,888	982,055 00	1833	10,307,790	3,765,710 00
1809	2,861,834	884,752 53	1834	11,637,643	7,388,423 00
1810	3,056,418	1,155,868 50	1835	15,996,342	5,668,667 00
1811	1,649,570	1,108,740 95	1836	13,719,333	7,764,900 00
1812	2,761,646	1,115,219 50	1837	13,010,721	3,299,898 00
1813	1,755,331	1,102,271 50	1838	15,336,518	3,979,217 00
1814	1,833,859	642,535 80	1839	9,260,345	3,021,170 11
1815	69,867	20,483 00			
1816	2,888,135	56,785 57			
1817	5,163,967	647,267 50	Total	235,499,086	79,881,835 59

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Recapitulation of the amount of coinage at the Mint of the United States and its branches, from the commencement of operations to December 31, 1839.

Commenced operations.	Mints.	Whole coinage, in pieces.	Whole coinage, in value.
1793	Philadelphia mint -	235,499,086	$79,881,835 59
1838	Charlotte branch mint -	62,420	246,932 50
1838	Dahlonega branch mint -	53,196	231,795 00
1838	New Orleans branch mint	2,804,030	267,403 00
	Total -	238,418,732	80,627,966 09